Volume 2 - Issue 4 Aug-Sept 2012

WELCOME to the August-September issue of *HookedNow*. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments at: sweltsa@frontier.com (include "HookedNow" in the subject line for quicker replies). And please tell your fishing buddies about *HookedNow*.

August and September usher in new conditions that require changes in fishing methods, many of which are the direct result of low stream flows. As a result we thought an issue focused on what low flows mean to you as a fly fisher made a lot of sense. For example, how should you change your tactics during low flows? What alterations should you make to your gear and fly patterns? And how do trout and insects cope with low flows? We've tried to provide answers to these questions that ideally will help you go forth over the next couple of months and know how to adapt to low water conditions just as easily as the trout! HAPPY CASTS!

Contents this issue:

Photo by Rick Hafele

HookedNow.com
The Fly Fishing E-Zine

Skip Morris – Late Season Low

Fall has always been my favorite time to fish in general, and my favorite time for fishing trout rivers in particular. After all, what's not to like? The summer crowds are gone--along with the worst of the summer heat--motel rates are down and finding a room's easy. And…the rivers are low and clear.

Low and clear rivers are a specialty item, offering particular challenges, strategies, and rewards. We'll start with the challenges. The rewards seem obvious to me (one, in fact, being the challenges) but I'll run over them at the end anyway.

STEALTH, EXPOSURE, and RECENT MEMORY

Low water of late summer and fall is small water, relative to the rest of the year, and the trout know it--they *feel* it. As a result, they also feel vulnerable to predation with so little room for escape, which makes them skittish. Low water tends to be shallower and slower and clearer than usual too, so the fish get a better and perhaps longer look at your fly...and everything else. You see where this is going, right? Your fly needs to behave properly, which usually means in a generally natural way or specifically like the creature it imitates. Your leader and line must stay well away from the fish, so longer leaders and tippets may be in order. Your casts must neither pass the line too near the fish nor throw the line on the water with an alarming splat. And you need to crouch, stay back from the water, or both, or perhaps approach from well downstream or just well away from the fish. Or, perhaps make a long downstream presentation of the fly--an ace-up-the-sleeve for nervous trout.

Photo by Rick Hafele

Don't worry how silly you look. When the water is low and clear approach the water as carefully as you can.

Smaller, slower, clearer water does make trout wary, but that's not the whole story. Low water typically comes late in the season, and by then the trout

have been hammered. They've been hooked and netted and pricked by flies and generally harassed for months and, despite their tiny brains, they're left with a strong impression: specifically, Don't get fooled again. You can debate all day about the extent of a trout's memory, but old hands on trout streams will tell you that late-season trout seem a whole lot smarter than the early season variety, water conditions aside.

TACKLE

Most fly fishers reach for the same rods and reels and lines for low water they fish in high water, and that's probably fine. But brimming springtime rivers and heavier lines really do make sense. And famished fall rivers and light lines make just as much sense. So, a 6-weight line in spring, a 5 in summer, and a 4 in the fall is a sound strategy. All of that depends in part on the flies you'll be fishing too, of course, and the size of your river. A really big trout stream like the Deschutes in Oregon or the Upper Columbia in Washington always seems right with a 6-weight line to me. Although I have fished a four on the Deschutes to rising trout and must admit, it felt good and delivered (to the displeasure of a few fish sedately feeding at the surface of a huge eddy).

There are lots of variables when it comes to line weight, and your own preferences count high among them. Bottom line: use what you like, but if you're ever going to go lighter on your river, low water would be the time.

Photo by Rick Hafele

A 5-weight rod, eight to nine feet long, will give you the flexibility to fish a wide variety of flies and handle a late afternoon breeze if needed.

Rods? Again, they're largely about personal preference. But a bit softer and perhaps slower rod (more flexible through the butt-section and therefore lazier in response) than average does have advantages with low flows. Rod length is *really* subjective; if you like a particular rod, don't let me or anyone else talk you out of it.

You have to bear in mind too that low-water fishing isn't one-dimensional--sure you may present size-20 blue-winged olive emerger flies to sedately surface-feeding browns, something of the classic fly fisher's daydream for

gentle water. But perhaps you're skidding goofy-big size-6 dry flies across the water because October caddis adults are slapping down to excite the trout. Or maybe you're working a nymph, or even a streamer on a sink-tip line. Go too short or too light or just too gutless on your tackle and you may find yourself struggling. Personally, I rarely go below a 5-weight line and rod in low water unless I'm pretty certain that deep nymphs and streamers and huge dry flies aren't in the picture.

On the whole, your leaders and tippets will be longer for low-water flows than for higher ones. If a nine-foot tapered leader is the norm on your favorite trout stream, you might add a three-foot section between leader and tippet for increased length in the fall. On flat water with really skittish fish you might start with a leader of twelve feet. Tippet length may increase in fall as well. I keep going longer and longer on my tippets as the trout in my rivers seem to grow ever more cautious, so a three-foot tippet is my standard now for dry flies and floating emergers. But I'm far more likely to go shorter in spring or summer than in fall. If I were ever to move towards four feet, it would be during low water.

Overall, I tend to be a heavy tippet man--I don't like losing a big fish when one comes along. So 3X tippet is my standard for nymph fishing and 4X my standard for dry flies--though with big dry flies I often choose 3X. Low water is different. I mean, I may *prefer* heavy tippet, but I'm wide open to fine stuff if the trout tell me they require it. I've used 6X many times, 7X and 8X seem to wind up on my leaders every year, again, usually in fall. In my experience, 5X will fool most river trout even in low water, and 6X is usually as fine as I need to go--if the trout are refusing my fly on 6X it's probably something other than the tippet they dislike. Still, wary trout on tiny insects, clear and slow currents…there *is* a place for the finest tippets.

Photo by Rick Hafele

Blue-winged Olive mayflies can be an important hatch in the fall when waters are low.

KNOW THE MIDGE AND THE BWO

With the exception of the massive October Caddis (and the occasional and generally unreliable hatch of late mayflies or caddis or terrestrials), most of the insects my river trout eat in the low flows of fall are tiny, a lot of blue-winged olive (BWO) mayflies and midges. That varies from one river to the next, but these are really the two mainstay insects of western trout-river fishing in my experience, from Washington to Idaho to Colorado to BC.

The BWO and midge are both big winter hatches too, but that's another matter.

Photo by Rick Hafele

My point? Know what hatches to expect when the water is thin--which normally means autumn--and come prepared. The water can be low in late summer too, especially on a dry year. In late summer lots of things are still hatching: all sorts of medium-size caddis, a variety of mayflies, smaller stoneflies, and there may be ants and beetles dropping onto the water from the river's edges. So expect more options in mid-August than in October. But in fall, especially in the West, bring some extra flies for midge and BWO hatches (and perhaps for October Caddis).

Besides BWOs and midges, small crane flies, like this size 14 tan crane fly, can be very abundant in August and September. Swinging a small soft-hackle fly through choppy riffles or runs can be surprisingly effective.

UNNATURAL LOWS

"Tail-waters," streams that flow from dams, can be low about any time, though they too usually reach their smallest flows in the fall. But if there's a reason to tighten down the river's volume--irrigation, a dry year…--the dam-keeper will do it with a simple turn of the dial, or whatever adjusts the release from the dam. The solution is simple: even if it's a time of year when the river should be at a normal flow or high, just disregard that, and if it's low--treat it as low. Maybe the point here is that you'd be wise to carry some low-water flies and tippet and leaders in your vest along with low-water strategies in the back of your mind any time you plan to fish a tail-water.

REWARDS

Okay, I promised to talk about the rewards of low-water trout fishing, so…

First, as I mentioned, I consider the caution after a long season of angler harassment and the added nervousness of late-season low-water trout a gift--I like a challenge. Makes things interesting.

Second, getting around and finding clear space for back casts is easiest in low water.

Third, your odds of finding solitude on the river (what real fly fisher doesn't crave solitude?) take a leap when, after Labor Day, the kids go back to school and their parents' chances of an extended fishing vacation take a dive.

Fourth--and among my favorites--you don't have to wait for what seems half the night to hit that calm, sweet evening rise. In fact, you can have dinner after dark at a reasonable hour.

Low water--what's not to like?

Photo by Carol Ann Morris

CLICK HERE

to watch a video of Skip sneaking up on some tough trout in a small spring creek!

Low-water Fly Patterns

Photos by Skip Morris

BARR EMERGER, BLUE-WINGED OLIVE by John Barr

HOOK: Light wire, standard length to 1X long, sizes 20 to 16.

THREAD: Gray 8/0.

TAIL: Brown dry-fly hackle fibers, trimmed to length.

ABDOMEN: Olive and brown buoyant dubbing blended.

WING CASE and LEGS: Blue dun dry-fly hackle fibers. Pull the fibers forward for a wing case, bind then at the hook's eye, split the tips to the sides and bind them, trim the tips to length.

THORAX: medium-gray buoyant dubbing.

COMMENTS: Imitates hatching PMD mayflies and those that fail to hatch. These days the Barr Emerger is a pretty standard fly, in its various forms, for hatches of little mayflies.

PALOMINO MIDGE, BROWN by Brett Smith

HOOK: Light wire, humped shank, sizes 22 to 18.

THREAD: Brown 8/0 or finer.

ABDOMEN: Brown New Dub, Magic Dub, or Easy Dubbing.

WING CASE and GILLS: White Z-lon or Antron yarn, pulled over the thorax, bound at the hook's eye, and trimmed short for gills.

THORAX: Brown rabbit fur (or buoyant synthetic or wool dubbing, if you're sure you want the fly to float).

COMMENTS: Usually treated with floatant and fished in the water's surface, but it can be dangled below a dry fly.

Photos by Skip Morris

BRIGHT SPOT CARPENTER ANT by Dave Whitlock

HOOK: Light wire, standard length or 1X long, sizes 16 to 8.

THREAD: Black 8/0 or 6/0.

ABDOMEN and TORAX: Black elk or moose-body hair

STRIKE INDICATOR: A small bunch of pink or orange deer hair, trimmed short.

COMMENTS: Bind the body-hair at the bend, spiral the thread forward, pull the hair forward to mid-shank, bind the hair to the hook's eye and then double it back and bind about one third up the shank. Bind down the hair around the center of the shank, and use thread-turns to set a few hairs out to the sides as legs and trim them to length.

MIKULAK SEDGE by Art Mikulak

HOOK: Standard to heavy wire, 1X to 3X long, sizes 10 to 6.

THREAD: Three-ought in the body's color.

TAIL: Elk hair (the tail is really part of the wing).

BODY and WING: Sections of buoyant dubbing between bunches of elk hair.

HACKLE: One, between the last wing section and the head.

HEAD: The butts of the final wing-section of elk trimmed to a blunt head.

COMMENTS: You can tie the Mikulak Sedge to imitate any substantial caddisfly you want by varying hook-size and colors. For the October Caddis I like orange thread, orange dubbing, and a brown hackle.

Dave Hughes – Low Water, Nibbling at the Edges

Photo by Rick Hafele

All photos by Dave Hughes except where noted

It's counter-intuitive: you'd think trout in low water would be down in whatever depths are left, cryptic and in pods, hiding out and saving energy until flows liven up and things get generally better. But they're not, especially in small to medium-sized trout streams. They're more often sprinkled in very minor holding lies along the edges and even on shallow tailouts, wherever they can find some slight concealment from predators and shade from the sun.

It makes a bit of sense. Waters become low and clear long after snow-melt has ended, rains have diminished, and ground water has dried to a trickle. That coincides with the end of most aquatic insect hatches and the advent of terrestrial time. Where do those adventurous land insects make the mistakes that get them onto water and into the eyes of trout: along the edges. When they become the dominant groceries, trout move out of the depths and take what shelter they can find where they're most likely to get fed. They nibble at ants, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, inchworms, whatever else falls to the water. You should adjust your tactics to nibble at the same edges to get into contact with those trout.

The first part of it is reading the water, to find the fish. Trout, as we already know, need three things to be satisfied with their lies: food, shelter from currents, and protection from predators. Food, in the form of all those terrestrials dropping in, is what draws them to the edges. Shelter from fast flows is inherent in times of low water, near the banks; there is not much current to escape. The friction of water flowing along the edge itself slows the water...it's why trout are often tucked so tight there; the water is slowest there. As a consequence of the abundance of food and patience of the currents, protection from predators becomes the need that defines the lies in which you'll find trout along the edges.

Grasshoppers and ants are two of a trout's favorite and most frequent food items when summer draws to a close.

What are those predators, and from which direction do they attack? They're kingfishers, osprey, and herons, for the most part, and they launch their strikes from overhead. Of course there are also mink, otters, and even us, but we're all more dangerous when trout are podded up than we are when they're sprinkled, so its aerial predation against which trout array their defenses, and choose their lies, along the skinny edges. Which brings up an aside: trout holding in comparatively shallow lies, as they will be along the banks, are always scattered, usually one per lie, sometimes two if it's a large lie, rarely three. When they're holding in larger, deeper pools, they often pod up. This dictates, in large part, the speed with which you fish banks, as opposed to pools: you move right along, take five casts or ten to a promising spot, make sure you've given every trout in there a chance to ponder your fly, decide whether to whack it. Then you move on to the next lie.

If you hook one, repeat the cast, and hope for another, but based on dispersion rules, if you've hooked one, you're less likely to hook another on a cast to the same place. If you do continue hooking trout from a large lie along the edges, you'll usually catch the biggest one first, then they'll diminish in size. So your pace, along the edges, is much more brisk than it is when you fish the central regions of the stream, where it can be quite wise to linger over a pool, keep casting after you've already caught one to a bunch of trout...keep pestering the pool until you wear it out. End of aside.

Favorable lies at the shallow edges are defined by three things: depth, darkness, and overhead concealment. If you're hiking along the banks of a river when the water is low, and notice any water near the bank that is deeper than the water upstream and down from it, be sure to fish it. Trout, sometimes two or even three, are sure to be there, because that depth gives them at least a slight measure of protection. If you notice a ledge, boulder, or even an outsized rock that has a bit of an overhang, someplace for a single fish to tuck itself under and still observe the surface overhead, suspect that a trout will be hidden in there. Show

It's often better to fish from shore when when fishing for trout along the banks - wading in a splashing about is a quick way to send cautious trout running for cover.

your fly to it at least once or twice, and you're highly likely to get it ambushed. Shade is perhaps the best defining factor in reading edge lies. The barest bit of it is often enough to conceal a trout. Always fish it. It doesn't need to be the obvious shade of an overhanging bush or branch; it can just as easily be a small patch of darkness on the bottom cast by a submerged boulder. As the sun moves overhead, and the shade trots along the bottom, trout will move with it...you look for that bit of darkness, and make sure your fly floats directly over it.

Flies are a sort of no-brainer when you're fishing low water, along the edges, after trout have moved there to take advantage of terrestrial insects: that's what you want to imitate. Specifically, I recommend you use what Skip and Rick recommend; they're far wiser about flies than I am. I use a black Quik-Site Ant for ants, in size 16; a Black Foam Beetle for beetles, usually in size 12 or 14; Ed Schroeder's Parachute Hopper for grasshoppers, most often in size 8 or 10; an Olive Beadhead Nymph for inchworms, on size 12 to 14. Naturally I tie special imitations for a few terrestrials that are found in abundance on particular waters that I fish: a big grey hopper for a desert stream in eastern Oregon; a dark-bodied and dun-winged termite dressing when those guys are out in autumn; a size 16 bulbous-bodied brown beetle for one that gets blown out of conifer trees on Fall River and sometimes alders along the Deschutes. Rarely, however, do you need to get more specific than a few generic dressings that look at least a little like what's falling to the water along the edges. Trout there are almost always seeing a variety of arrivals, and normally accept them all. They don't get selective. You can even use your Royal Wullfs and Stimulators with beneficial results.

Like the naturals they imitate, easy to see ant and hopper patterns are often perfect for fooling low-water trout looking for a morsel falling in from above.

Almost always, until a specific dry imitation has proven itself by drawing up more than a few trout, I dangle a generic nymph on about two feet of tippet, off the hook bend of the dry fly itself. This is insurance against a drubbing. If it's morning, and insects don't have their engines revved yet, the nymph will take by far the most trout. If it's a cool day in late summer or early fall, the dangled nymph might work all day. If the water is still cool, usually the result of a watershed upstream that's in excellent condition, then the nymph will succeed until sometime just before or after noon, when the water warms enough for trout to get their own engines revved up. When the dry fly begins to outperform the nymph, then I simply nip off the sunk fly and continue my fishing. Since the best nymphs are generic, I won't list them here; use your favorites; they'll work best for you. Just be sure to use them in small enough sizes that they don't tug the dry fly under. Beadheads don't hurt, because they tend to sink a nymph to just the right depth to fish in shallow water.

And don't forget to set the hook when your dry fly mysteriously disappears. That's a take to the nymph swimming beneath it.

Tackle and tactics for nibbling at the edges can be analogous to what you'd use on a small stream. The Deschutes River itself, as broad and brawling as they get, is often called two small streams, each of them five feet wide, one of them on either side of the river. If you're working your way upstream, nibbling at one of those edges, you're better off armed with the same gear you'd fish on your favorite small stream than you would be carrying what might work better on one of the monstrous riffles or runs of the same river.

When I'm fishing banks, I like to go light, but I also want enough line weight to turn over flies with some size...those big hoppers. So my line will be a 4- or 5-weight. The best length for the rod depends on the shape of the streamside vegetation. If you're in

Photos by Rick Hafele

The perfect rod for fishing bank water will depend on the kind of stream vegetation and the challenges it presents.

open country, with no hindrance to your backcast, there is no reason not to use an 8-1/2- to 9-foot rod. If the banks are tight with brush, then a 7-1/2 to 8-foot rod will serve you better. If you're on a Wisconsin limestoner that wends its way through a tunnel of tall wheat- and ryegrass, then you might want a 9-foot or longer rod to loft your backcast up above all that danger. Alternatively, I fished with an educated angler who preferred a 5- to 6-foot rod to burrow through the same circumstances. On most waters, nibbling at the edges is best accomplished with an 8- to 8-1/2-foot 4 or 5-weight rod.

Tactics are quite simple.You amble along, keep yourself out of sight of any lie you're about to fish, be careful not to let your footfalls land with thuds. You've already read those prospective lies. You're armed with the right fly, or pair of them. Simply cast upstream as you slip along, showing your offering to any trout that might be tucked in there. It's as simple as fishing any small stream. Books have been written about that.

I've written one myself.

Photos by Rick Hafele

Not all trout caught nibbling along the edges will be large, but they will all be beautiful.

Rick hafele – Life in Low Water

Photo by Mark Bachmann

(All photos by Rick Hafele except where noted)

Streams, and lakes too for that matter, change in specific ways from season to season just as surely as the leaves on the cottonwood trees along their banks. One of those changes is water level. In most cases water levels change more dramatically through the seasons in streams than lakes (though some lakes do experience a large drops in water levels), thus low water is typically more common in streams. For this reason my discussion here is going to focus on streams and how water level - low water in this case - effect fish and insects. Skip and Dave have already covered the significant ways low water changes fishing tactics, equipment, and fly patterns. So I thought I'd spend a bit more time discussing how trout and insects have evolved to cope with low water.

I've always been amazed at the adaptability of stream dwelling fish and insects. Over the course of a single year they will commonly experience large floods with extended high water, short duration flash floods that occur with unpredictable frequency, freezing temperatures, muddy water, warm or even hot temperatures, and very low water. To thrive in this type of environment you have to have some very good strategies to handle a wide range of conditions. The one thing that doesn't change with perennial flowing streams or rivers, unless man-made changes have significantly changed water flow, is that water continues to flow down their channels for hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, or even millions of years without interruption. Except for the largest of lakes like the Great Lakes, such permanence is rare for lakes. Therefore, while life in streams has to be able to live in a highly changeable environment, the streams they live in have existed for millions of years giving the life within them ample time to evolve effective ways to cope with the extreme range of natural conditions.

Many of the changes that occur during low water are obvious, while others are more subtle. Perhaps most obvious is that during low water streams and rivers are smaller - duh! But to a trout this means there is less living space, and thus fish are more crowded. The result is that good lies hold fewer trout during low water than during higher water. This ties in with Dave's earlier discussion of how trout end up "sprinkled" across a stream during low water and often end up holding near the banks. For the angler however, it can also means that trout will be easier to find. Even though fewer trout may be in any one specific lie, good holding water will often be easier to identify, and definitely easier to wade to and fish. Caution and stealth are a must though when approaching potential

trout lies during low water if you want more than just seeing the quick flash of a trout as it darts away.

Another effect of low water on trout that's less obvious is the rise in water temperature that usually accompanies later summer and fall drops in flow. You can check this easily enough wherever you are fishing with a thermometer. In most regions and for most species of trout (some unique exceptions do occur), trout find water around 65 degrees tolerable, but prefer it cooler, with temps in the 50 to 60 degree range nearly ideal. When temperatures range from say 68-70 trout start getting uncomfortable. When it rises above 70 degrees they are down right stressed and will do almost anything to find and hold in cooler water, even if it means being crowded together in a small area or holding in areas with little food. I have observed this first hand while snorkeling in streams where water temperatures rise to dangerous levels. On more than one occasion I've floated through hundreds of feet of a stream channel without seeing a single trout, only to find 15 or 20 trout all crowded together in a tight little ball in a small pocket where cool ground water seeps into the stream bottom. When approached I could put my hand right into the middle of these trout before they would budge from their little pocket of cool water. And once I left they immediately returned to their little refuge of coolness.

Cool water attracts trout like moths to a light when stream temps rise too high for comfort.

Drifting down a stream in a wet suit with mask and snorkel provides you with a view of the trout's world that is impossible to get any other way.

Photo by Rick Hafele

The above example is from a stream where water temps rose to 75 degrees and higher late in the summer, and thus a rather extreme case of high water temperature for a trout streams. But it does point out how trout will move to areas where temperature is more suitable if needed. So, if water temperature gets above 65 or 68 degrees and you know areas where cool water enters the stream, either from little springs, ground water, or cold tribs, you will likely find trout concentrated around these cool water sources. Use your thermometer to check where these areas might be.

You've also probably noticed how lazy you get, and how little you feel like eating, when it's 100 degrees outside. Well trout act the same way when water temp gets to 68 or 70 and higher. This means that trout will feed most actively in the early morning, when water temperature is coldest during warm, low-water conditions. Thus early morning may be your best time to catch trout when faced with warm water in trout streams. This doesn't mean a grasshopper pattern fished mid-day won't bring up some nice trout, even on a hot summer afternoon. But it does mean you will do better fishing that hopper pattern where the water temp is 65 degrees versus 70.

Net-spinning caddis larvae become concentrated in the best habitat when low water reduces their available living area.

What about aquatic insects and low water? As you probably guessed there are a whole range of ways aquatic insects deal with low, and warm, water. First, many species of insects anglers routinely imitate are in either the egg stage or have just hatched from eggs and are really tiny nymphs and larvae during the late summer and early fall. I've mentioned before that August and September are typically the low point in insect numbers in most trout streams. But the insects that are active in streams during late summer and fall low-water periods will be crowed into less living space just like trout. As a result while the ***total*** number of insects in a stream may be low, the number per square foot or square meter, may not show a drop at all, and could even increase. To a trout this means it will see about the same number of insects drifting by per area of stream available to live in. And to the angler it means you will be just as effective

Photo by Rick Hafele

drifting a nymph or emerger downstream that matches the dominant insect trout are seeing and feeding on.

This leads right into the topic of insect drift and how stream flow affects it. Like most things related to insects the answer isn't straight forward. First, lower flows means lower current velocities, which means individual nymphs or larvae are less likely to get washed into the drift. Generally insect numbers in the drift will be lower during low flows. But, again, the number drifting per cubic foot or cubic meter of stream may not be much lower due to the smaller volume of water in the stream channel. And just like other seasons of the year, insect drift numbers still peak during the hour or two right around sunrise and again around sunset. Because the morning drift peak also corresponds with cooler morning stream temperatures, this can be a great time to be on the water fishing nymphs and other sub-surface patterns.

Cool water often flows just below the surface of stream bottom gravel and cobble, a place small nymphs and larvae can readily access when needed.

Aquatic insects are overall less affected by warm water temperature than trout. For example, studies looking at the thermal tolerance of a variety of aquatic insects show that most have a higher temperature tolerance than trout. Also, because aquatic insects are small and live in the small spaces on and in between stream bottom rocks, when needed they can often find cooler water in the area under cobbles and boulders. Many species will even clamber down below the surface of the streambed gravels several inches to several feet. This region of the stream bottom is called the hyporheic zone. During late season warm water periods water temperature in the hyporheic zone can be four or five or more degrees cooler than the water in the stream channel. In addition, besides a refuge during summer and fall low flows, the hyporheic zone is also a place insects survive floods. There is no question that being tiny has some advantages. The one big disadvantage is that you are on the menu of nearly every other animal under and above the water.

So, what's the take home message here? First, think about how trout have to deal with less living space and where they may go to find cooler water temperature. Second, while aquatic insect numbers are generally low this time of year, the number per stream area is not necessarily low. Finally, you can just appreciate the fact that trout and insects live in a very changeable environment and are extremely adept at finding ways to thrive in it. It's probably also worth going back to Dave's and Skip's articles and reread how to alter your fishing tactics and gear for these low water days of late summer and fall.

"Angling is extremely time consuming. That's sort of the whole point."
Thomas McGuane

News from Dave, Rick, & Skip!

More Workshops Coming Up!

Skip & Rick have the following fly-fishing school coming soon!

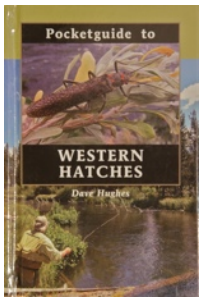
Trout Tactics with Skip Morris & Rick Hafele at Antelope Creek Lodge, CA

When: September 13-16, 2012

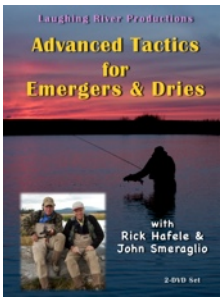
Where: Antelope Creek Ranch near Mt. Shasta, California

To register and get more info go to: http://www.theflyshop.com/schools/workshops.html

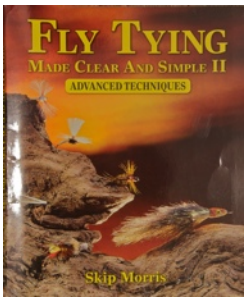
Recent Book & DVD Releases



Dave's newest book, *Pocketguide to Western Hatches*, just out September 2011, is now available.--$21.95--Stackpole Books, 2011



Rick's newest instructional DVD (2-disc set) with John Smeraglio titled, *Advanced Tactics for Emergers & Dries,* is now available. Order it online at www.laughingrivers.com or get at your local fly shop. $29.95 - Laughing River Productions, 2011



Skip's latest book, *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple II, Advanced Techniques*, offers *thorough* instructions for tying many great patterns for fussy trout. Frank Amato Pub, 2009

To learn more about Dave, Skip, and Rick's latest publications, where they are speaking, or to book them for your own program , go to their personal websites at:

Skip Morris: http://www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com/
Rick Hafele: http://www.rickhafele.com/RH/Home.html
Dave Hughes: http://dave-hughes-fly-fishing.com/